Notice of Allowability	**Application No.** 10/749,542	**Applicant(s)** SUH ET AL.
	Examiner Raj K. Jain	**Art Unit** 2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to _12/30/03_.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are _1,3-8,10-19 renumbered 1-17_.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _20070614_ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. Cory Claassen June 07, 07.

Cancel claims 2 and 9.

Amend claims 1, 7, 8, 14, and 16, as follows;

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing at least two types of payloads
received at varying intervals in a communications network using a single processing
path, said types of payloads including a first set of payloads having indices associated
therewith, and a second set of payloads having no indices associated therewith, the
method comprising:

assigning pseudo indices to the second set of payloads having no indices
associated therewith; and

providing the first set of payloads having indices associated therewith and the
second set of payloads having pseudo indices assigned to the single processing path,
wherein the first set of payloads comprises virtually concatenated payloads according to
SONET/SHD architecture, and the second set of payloads comprises contiguously
concatenated payloads according to SONET/SDH architecture.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the indices for the
first set of payloads comprise multi frame indication (MFI) indices and the pseudo
indices assigned to the second set of payloads comprise pseudo MFI indices.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing at least two types of payloads received at varying intervals in a communications network using a single processing path, said types of payloads including a first set of payloads having indices associated therewith, and a second set of payloads having no indices associated therewith, the apparatus comprising:

a receiving preprocessing arrangement for receiving the first set of payloads and the second set of payloads, wherein the first set of payloads comprises virtually concatenated payloads according to SONET/SHD architecture, and the second set of payloads comprises contiguously concatenated payloads according to SONET/SDH architecture;

a processor configured to receive the second set of payloads and assigning pseudo indices to the second set of payloads having no indices associated therewith; and

an alignment buffer configured to receive the first set of payloads, the second set of payloads, the indices for the first set of payloads, and the pseudo indices for the second set of payloads and provide aligned blocks of data.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the indices for the first set of payloads comprise multi frame indication (MFI) indices and the pseudo indices assigned to the second set of payloads comprise pseudo MFI indices.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for processing virtually concatenated payloads and contiguously concatenated payloads using a single processing path, said virtually concatenated payloads and contiguously concatenated payloads conforming to SONET/SDH requirements, the method comprising:

assigning pseudo multi frame indications to all contiguously concatenated payloads; and

providing the virtually concatenated payloads and contiguously concatenated payloads having pseudo multi frame indications assigned thereto to the single

processing path, wherein the first set of payloads comprises virtually concatenated payloads according to SONET/SHD architecture, and the second set of payloads comprises contiguously concatenated payloads according to SONET/SDH architecture;

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 1 and 8 are allowed. The prior art discloses a SONET/SHD architecture with concatenated and non-concatenated payloads traversing an optical network.

The prior art however fails to disclose or suggest an SONET/SHD architecture specifically wherein the first set of payloads comprises virtually concatenated payloads and the second set of payloads comprises contiguously concatenated payloads and further assigning pseudo indices to the second set of payloads which have no indices associated therewith and the first set of payloads that have indices associated therewith assigned to a single processing path.

Claim16 is allowed. The prior art discloses a SONET/SHD architecture with concatenated and non-concatenated payloads traversing an optical network.

The prior art however fails to disclose or suggest an SONET/SHD architecture specifically wherein the first set of payloads comprises virtually concatenated payloads and the second set of payloads comprises contiguously concatenated payloads and further assigning pseudo multi frame indications to all contiguously concatenated payloads and further providing the virtually concatenated payloads and contiguously concatenated payloads having pseudo multi frame indications assigned thereto to a single processing path.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raj K. Jain whose telephone number is 571-272-3145. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a
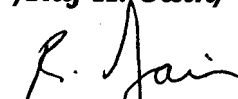
USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Raj K. Jain/

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June 18, 2007